argue that the principles of international law must be used in all disputes."*(Vana Update, Jan. 1999)*

New Agenda for Disarmament

On December 4 the UN General Assembly adopted the New Agenda Coalition (NAC) resolution calling on all nuclear weapon states to start work immediately on the practical steps needed to eradicate and prohibit nuclear weapons, voting 114 for, 18 against, 38 abstentions. Twelve of the 16 NATO countries abstained, including Canada, rather than oppose it. Canada has not joined the Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden and South Africa) because NATO considers nuclear weapons to be essential, despite Canada's foreign policy of global disarmament. (*VANA Update*, Newsletter of Veterans against Nuclear Arms, Jan. 1999)

NAC includes Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden and South Africa (Slovenia pulled out and abstained), and about 30 other countries co-sponsored the resolution.

Genetic-Industrial Complex

An excellent article, "Menace of the genetic-industrial complex", by Jean-Pierre Berlan and Richard C. Lewontin summarizes the issue: "To counteract public disquiet about genetically modified organisms (GMOs), biotechnology companies are paying "experts" to conduct a propaganda war in support of their activities. The result is that the multinational firms which make up the genetic-industrial complex have been given free licence to manipulate, and even sterilise, living things in the quest for profit." This very informative article ends with a better way, saying that we should reverse present patenting policy and declare living things "the common property of humanity", use public research to make ecologically responsible and sustainable agriculture possible, guarantee the free movement of knowledge and genetic resources, and replace economic warfare and plundering of genetic resources with international co-operation and peace. (*Le Monde Diplomatique*, January 1999)

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